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Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Special reports

Special reports

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. At its regular session in June 1999, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in accordance with paragraph 61 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, requested the following organization to submit a special report to the Committee at its resumed 1999 session (see E/1999/109, paras. 58-82):

World Confederation of Labour

2. At the same session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations also requested the following organizations to submit reports to the Committee at its resumed session (see E/1999/109, paras. 58-82):

International Federation of Human Rights
Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development

3. The information received by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is herewith transmitted to the Committee for its consideration.

* E/C.2/1999/1.

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I. World Confederation of Labour (General Consultative status)

A. Background

During the second part of its 1998 session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it a letter from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the accreditation by four organizations in consultative status with the Council of individuals belonging to a terrorist group to participate in the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The Committee requested each organization to submit a special report. At its resumed session, in December 1998, the Committee reviewed the reports of the four organizations and accepted two of those reports (see E/C.2/1998/2). In the case of the World Confederation of Labour, the Committee requested additional information on the matter and requested the representatives of the organization to attend the 1999 session of the Committee to respond to questions.

At its substantive session, in June 1999, the Committee reviewed the special report of the World Confederation of Labour (E/C.2/1999/3) and the representative of the organization briefed the members of the Committee and responded to questions raised. The representative also proposed a dialogue with the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations at Geneva and this proposal was welcomed by the Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Committee then requested a new special report from the World Confederation of Labour for consideration at its resumed session.

The World Confederation of Labour submitted a special report to the Secretariat in a letter dated 10 November 1999. An addendum to the report, dated 14 December 1999, was also received from WCL following a response to the special report by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran . The special report and addendum and the response of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran are set out below.

B. Letter dated 10 November 1999 from the General Secretary of the World Confederation of Labour to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section

We hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 October last requesting us to send you a new report in accordance with paragraph 60 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 entitled: "Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations".

In compliance with your request, we are now submitting a new report to be reviewed by the Committee at its resumed session, scheduled to take place from 17 to 28 January 2000.

(*Signed*) Willy **Thys**
General Secretary

C. World Confederation of Labour

WCL, being an international trade union social movement, has been involved in organizing workers from all sectors of society in order to ensure that these workers are

properly represented in the appropriate international bodies. It has a number of affiliates worldwide and one of them is the Democratic Union of Iranian Workers (DUIW). Like any other affiliate, it embraces our principles of independent and autonomous trade unionism. It is entirely independent from the State, the Government, any political party and employers. For these reasons, WCL affiliated the Democratic Union of Iranian Workers, based in France, whose members are mostly migrant workers. We have accredited three of its members in the past to attend sessions of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. The Iranian Government has alleged that those individuals were terrorists. Consequently, we hereby submit this special report for your consideration.

Since the affiliation of DUIW, we have no knowledge of improper conduct or received any complaints concerning the organization or its members. WCL also has a French affiliate and they have not reported any negative information. WCL has never received any complaints from the French Government. Moreover, inquiries conducted in France since the allegation against DUIW was made have revealed that DUIW and its members are not connected to MKO. Frankly, we were surprised at the accusations made by the Iranian Government. Until we were questioned by the Committee, we never received any complaints on behalf of the Commission on Human Rights.

Furthermore, a series of meetings have been conducted by WCL with representatives of DUIW (17 February, 29 April, 20 May and 21 September 1999) and representatives of the Iranian Government (8 July 1999, Iranian Ambassador at Geneva; 10 August 1999, Iranian Chancellor to Belgium at Brussels).

Under the circumstances, we wish to state that there is a very clear difference between DUIW and MKO. We state this fact in response to your communication of 16 July 1999, sent to us by the Chief of the Section. MKO is not a trade union organization and WCL has absolutely nothing to do with this organization. WCL has no relations nor any contact with MKO.

WCL deals exclusively and only with DUIW. Consequently, we are mutually committed to upholding the sacred values and principles of trade unionism. We jointly defend trade union and human rights, which are two sides of the same coin. We are committed to seeking solutions to conflicts, regardless of their intensity, through patient and persistent dialogue. We categorically reject violence or force of any kind as a means to solve societal problems. On the basis of this principle, we are always open to dialogue. We are willing to discuss any issue so that better understanding and cooperation within a spirit of solidarity can ensure that justice prevails.

The WCL delegation was very attentive to the comments of the members of the Committee earlier this year in New York, when the issue was addressed. We were pleased that our General Secretary had the opportunity to address the Committee and answer a number of questions raised by the representatives of various countries.

In the light of the development surrounding this issue, WCL has taken measures to reiterate to all its affiliates the strict United Nations rules concerning the participation of NGOs in all international forums. We will continue implementing this policy to ensure that our unblemished reputation remains intact as a serious and responsible globally social entity.

Nevertheless, WCL wishes to make it perfectly clear that in the event we are provided with verifiable evidence proving beyond doubt that the members of DUIW are terrorists, then the said organization will be expelled forthwith in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of WCL.

Honourable and distinguished members of the Committee reviewing this issue, please be advised that WCL will never stand by and allow any individual or organization to tarnish

or destroy its wholesome image, which has been carefully nurtured throughout the span of the twentieth century.

Honourable and distinguished representatives of the Committee, we sincerely hope that the presence of our highest leadership among you earlier this year and this special report will finally put this issue to rest. We sincerely pray for the closure of this case.

D. Letter dated 8 December 1999 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section

I am writing in response to your letter dated 15 November 1999 transmitting the special report prepared by WCL on the accreditations of members of MKO/NCR to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the continued endeavours by all NGOs in defending human rights of individuals in all segments of societies at the national and international levels. In this context, it is also of particular significance that these organizations should exercise utmost vigilance in granting affiliations and accrediting individuals to international organizations so as to ensure that they do not pursue the interests of groups advocating violence and terrorism, which would otherwise serve to negate and tarnish their wholesome image globally.

With regard to the report of WCL contained in the text attached to your letter, as you are aware the Committee agreed that a special report should be provided by the organization in the light of the result of dialogue with the Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran at Geneva, proposed by the WCL in the Committee meeting held on 14 June 1999. As you may agree, although a brief mention is made of the meeting between WCL and the representative of the Iranian Mission, the report lacks further any account on the proceedings of the meeting, the nature of the information provided by the Mission on the members of the MKO/NCR as well as the reaction of the WCL thereon — an account that, in our view, is awaited by the distinguished members of the Committee.

As is evident from the report, WCL is determined to continue to support the members of MKO/NCR, which we are concerned could be accredited again by this organization to the Commission on Human Rights sessions and other international forums.

Therefore, I wish to inform you of the dissatisfaction of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the special report provided by WCL since it is short of assurances that WCL will not allow in future the members of MKO/NCR or any other group that will act contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations incompatible with those purposes and principles, to abuse its status and corresponding privileges in international forums, which may otherwise be served as a basis for suspension or withdrawal of consultative status.

(*Signed*) Mostafa **Alaei**
Counsellor

E. Letter dated 14 December 1999 from the Assistant Secretary-General of the World Confederation of Labour, containing an addendum to the special report

We hereby thank you very much for your letter dated 10 December 1999 and the copy of the letter from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressing its dissatisfaction with the special report we have submitted.

For the moment, we are not able to respond directly to the questions raised in the letter since the WCL General Secretary and the officers in charge of the matter are on mission.

However, we are sending you an addendum to the special report, containing the recommendations of the WCL Board of Confederal Secretaries resulting from an analysis of the elements submitted to them.

With regard to the meeting scheduled for January 2000, we would appreciate very much being informed of the exact dates in due time to allow the WCL General Secretary and the experts who will accompany him to assure the high-level representation of the World Confederation of Labour.

(*Signed*) Faustina **Van Aperen**
Assistant to the General Secretary

Addendum to the World Confederation of Labour special report

Following several meetings held between representatives of WCL and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Board of Confederal Secretaries of WCL has adopted these recommendations (Confederal Secretaries Board meeting, 17 November 1999):

- Since 1947, when WCL was granted its consultative status with the United Nations, this is the very first time it has been confronted with such a problem;
- Iranian Government representatives have repeatedly stressed to representatives of WCL that our good faith was not in question in this case. Furthermore, there have not been any incidents since the complaint of the Iranian Government was lodged;
- WCL firmly supports the global fight against terrorism;
- Further to meetings with representatives of the Iranian Government, we have still not been given tangible proof that indicates that some of the DUIW delegates accredited by the WCL are indeed terrorists;
- It has therefore been decided to keep our files open on the issue. Should we receive tangible and objective proof attesting that the delegates are terrorists, we will immediately take serious measures to exclude DUIW from WCL in conformity with our statutes;
- To concretize this spirit of goodwill and openness, we strongly support the proposal of the workers delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the last ILO Conference to organize a WCL mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran to meet local trade unions and workers.

II. International Federation of Human Rights (Special consultative status)

A. Background

At its substantive session in June 1999, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations heard a complaint by the representative of Algeria regarding an incident that took place during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, in April 1998, involving the International Federation of Human Rights. The Committee had already deferred that quadrennial report to its resumed session owing to outstanding questions about its accreditation procedures. The representative of Algeria circulated to members of the Committee documentation on an incident concerning the Ambassador of Algeria, which took place on the premises of the Palais des Nations and involved three individuals, one of whom was accredited by the International Federation of Human Rights. The Committee agreed to request the organization to submit a report on the incident to it at its resumed session.

The Committee secretariat transmitted the request for a report on the incident to the International Federation of Human Rights. In a letter dated 19 November 1999, IFHR submitted its report, and in a letter dated 22 June 1999 responded to issues of accreditation; these and related documents are set out below.

B. Report of the International Federation of Human Rights on the incident that took place on 15 April 1998 at the Palais des Nations

On 14 June 1999, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) received a letter from Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, requesting clarification on the following point:

> "Explain in general what is the policy and modalities of accreditation by your organization of your representatives to the Commission on Human Rights, particularly during the fifty-fourth session of this Commission."

FIDH prepared a reply, which was faxed to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section on 22 June 1999. At the end of June 1999, the office of the permanent delegation of FIDH to the United Nations at Geneva received another letter, also signed by Mrs. Mezoui, informing FIDH that the Committee had not received a reply to its first request. It also requested FIDH to provide the Committee with a report on an incident which took place on 15 April 1998, "on the premises of the Palais des Nations, in which the Ambassador of Algeria was approached by three individuals who accosted the Ambassador in a violent manner. One of those involved, Mr. Ammar Kebaili, was accredited by your organization to the Commission on Human Rights".

FIDH wishes hereby to respond to the request of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

FIDH wishes to clarify that the Ambassador of Algeria, Mr. Dembri, was not accosted by Mr. Ammar Kebaili, who was indeed accredited by FIDH. Mr. Kebaili, whose brother has disappeared in Algeria, approached the Ambassador and started asking him about the whereabouts of his brother. Then two other men approached and started accosting the Ambassador in a violent manner. The President of FIDH condemned the behaviour of the two men in a letter addressed to Mr. Dembri himself, pointing out that the International

Federation of Human Rights had always shown the greatest respect for the rules for NGO participation in the United Nations system.

The report of the Security Section of the Palais des Nations dated 23 April 1999 points out that Mr. Kebaili approached the Ambassador and started talking to him and that the two men approached them later and verbally attacked the Ambassador. The report states, however, "that the FIDH representative behaved in an agitated manner and asked Mr. Dembri to set his brother free".

FIDH wishes to clarify the following points:

1. Mr. Kebaili neither insulted nor threatened Mr. Dembri. He didn't attack him physically either.

2. Mr. Kebaili addressed a personal letter to the Ambassador dated 17 June 1999, in which he apologized for the incident. As he pointed out in his letter, Mr. Kebaili was in the particular psychological state of a person whose brother had disappeared. Moreover, as the report of the Security Section noted, "the confrontational debates taking place at the session of the Human Rights Commission create a tense atmosphere", likely to aggravate such a psychological situation.

FIDH therefore stresses that it sincerely regrets this unfortunate incident and apologizes to the Ambassador Dembri for any inconvenience it might have caused to him. This incident remains an isolated one in the history of nearly 50 years of a fruitful participation of FIDH in the United Nations human rights protection system. Most actors of this system (Governments, United Nations experts and personnel and other international NGOs) are in a position to support this conclusion.

FIDH is determined to continue participating in the United Nations human rights system in a constructive way.

C. Letter dated 22 June 1999 from the International Federation of Human Rights to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section

FIDH wishes hereby to respond to your request and provide you with information as regards the policy and the modalities of accreditation of its representatives to the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

Founded in 1922, FIDH is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the worldwide defence of human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and other international human rights instruments. Independent from all political parties and Governments, FIDH is an umbrella organization, currently made up of 105 local human rights organizations in 86 countries throughout the world. It is therefore particularly representative of the international civil society. The human rights activists from its member organizations ensure its legitimacy and its strength through their activities at the grass-roots level, in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights. FIDH undertakes activities at the request of its member organizations, acts as a facilitator for their projects, and helps empower and coordinate their activities. Through this partnership, FIDH develops capacity-building programmes at the national, regional and international levels, and promotes the advocacy work of human rights defenders on the international scene.

At the international level, including within the United Nations human rights system, FIDH coordinates the work of its member organizations and acts as a facilitator for their work. The overall objective of FIDH is to cooperate with and support the work of United

Nations human rights bodies. In this regard, FIDH enables its local partners to forward their expertise and concern on thematic issues as well as on their country situation to the main human rights United Nations bodies, thus providing these bodies with up-to-date information from various countries. This includes providing their activists with accreditation for the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights or the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities.

In following this policy of accreditation of human rights defenders from its member organizations, FIDH follows the letter of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. Through its training programmes, FIDH ensures that the activities of its member organizations in United Nations forums is strictly coordinated and accords with the framework of this resolution. All representatives of FIDH member organizations participating in the sessions bear in mind the fundamental ethical principles that rule the work of FIDH, such as its absolute independence vis-à-vis Governments and professionalism. It also follows the general spirit of Council resolution 1996/31, which reviewed Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) with a view to ensuring greater access of national NGOs to international bodies.

The modalities followed for accreditation of representatives of FIDH member organizations are based on Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, according to which "organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Council" (paragraph 35). The "authorized representatives" of FIDH are representatives of its member organizations and individuals mandated by the FIDH Executive or International Board. These modalities are followed for each session of the Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies, including the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

We hope the clarification provided hereby answers the request of the Committee of NGOs. We remain of course at your disposal for any additional information.

(*Signed*) Antoine **Bernard**
Executive Director

D. Letter dated 17 April 1998 from the President of the International Federation of Human Rights to the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations at Geneva

We understand that, on 15 April 1998, as you and Mr. Kebaili, accredited by FIDH, were starting to discuss the case of his brother who disappeared in Algeria, two members of the Algerian opposition directed vehemently abusive language at you as you left room XVIII.

FIDH, which has always shown the greatest respect for the rules for NGO participation in the United Nations system, strongly condemns the behaviour of these two individuals.

We must, however, point out that Mr. Kebaili is in no way a political militant. Rather, he is the brother of a person who disappeared three years ago, when 15 people were kidnapped in Rass-el-Oued; this case is being considered by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights.

As you must know, this individual is merely asking, along with FIDH and other international NGOs, that the truth about this event be disclosed. Moreover, he must bear

the burden of his brother's disappearance, which has been acknowledged by the authorities but has not been clarified.

FIDH, which is well known for encouraging cooperation and dialogue between NGOs and Governments, deplores the fact that the actions of Mr. Kebaili, who sought only to speak to you about his brother's case, have been confused with the unacceptable behaviour of the perpetrators of this regrettable incident.

Please let me know if you would like further details.

(*Signed*) Patrick **Baudouin**
President

E. Conclusions of the report of the investigation by the United Nations Security Section, United Nations Office at Geneva, on the incident that took place on 15 April 1998

Conclusions of the report of the investigation conducted on the incident that took place on 15 April 1998, around 6.15 p.m., outside room XVIII, directed against His Excellency Mr. Mohamed-Salah Dembri, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Following the investigation, it was concluded that:

- Mr. Dembri was accosted by a group of three people: a representative accredited by FIDH who wished to speak to Mr. Dembri and was waiting for him to finish talking to Mr. Pérez-Hernández y Torra, and two other individuals wearing public-gallery passes who approached afterward;
- The two individuals wearing public-gallery passes insulted Mr. Dembri, using offensive words. However, they did not attack Mr. Dembri physically;
- The FIDH representative behaved in an agitated manner and asked Mr. Dembri to set his brother free. He did not attack Mr. Dembri physically;
- It appears that these three people acted together and that they were very excited. Their conduct was such as to necessitate intervention by security officers; otherwise, it is not unlikely that the incident could have degenerated;
- The two individuals wearing public-gallery passes made verbal threats against Mr. Dembri out of his presence, just before they were expelled from the Palais.

Following this incident, these two ordinary visitors to the Palais were taken back to the Pregny entrance and steps were taken to prohibit their access to the Palais.

Two days after this incident, the representative of FIDH, a non-governmental organization, committed a second such act by mounting a small demonstration, on his own, outside room XVIII. He received a final warning, on pain of losing his accreditation.

With respect to the circumstances in which this incident took place, it is well known that the overall atmosphere in which the Commission conducts its business each year is conducive to confrontations, which up to now have always been confined primarily to verbal exchanges and forms of psychological intimidation.

It should be recalled that, in view of the ongoing risks posed by the sessions of the Commission, an increasingly strengthened security system has been put in place, which includes:

- Control of access to the room by metal detectors (1991);
- Walling-off of the room and the sector from the secretariat (1993);
- Installation and equipment of a checkpoint at the Pregny entrance (1995);
- Instructions limiting access to the rooms used by NGOs for their own activities (1996);
- Addition of an X-ray machine outside the room and increase in the number of security staff in charge of supervising the room (1997).

However, with a view to considering all possible ways of further enhancing security in relation to the Commission, the Chief of the Security Section remains at the disposal of the Director-General.

(*Signed*) R. **De Stickere**
Chief, Security Section

F. Letter of apology dated 17 June 1998 from Mr. Amar Kebaili to the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations at Geneva

I am taking the liberty of writing to ask for a few minutes of your valuable time to inform you of my position concerning the events of Friday, 17 April 1998.

On that day, I went to the Palais des Nations in Geneva to try to make myself heard on the subject of my brother's disappearance in Algeria when he was kidnapped from his family on 22 July 1994.

After the meeting I attended, I found myself standing in front of you in the corridor outside room 18. I took the liberty of requesting an interview, which you were willing to grant, though you asked me to wait until you had finished the conversation you were having with someone else.

As we were beginning to talk, I heard shouts from two other people who were standing nearby and who tried to accost you on the subject of the problem of disappearances in Algeria. I wish to clarify that I had met these two people an hour earlier and had told them why I was there. I had never met them before that time and I did not in any way request their support or intervention in my conversation with you. I am in no way linked to them or to their activities.

I therefore wish to inform you that I never intended to attack you physically or verbally on the occasion of our brief meeting. My only aim was to express my indignation with regard to my brother's disappearance. I respect your position as a representative of my country, Algeria, to the international community.

In the event that you hold me responsible for the incident of 17 April 1998, please accept my sincere apologies.

(*Signed*) Amar **Kebaili**

III. Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development (Roster)

A. Background

During its 1998 regular session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it a letter from the United States Mission to the United Nations concerning certain activities of the Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development (PAIS), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council. The Committee decided to request the organization to explain its activities and also to submit a special report to the Committee at its 1999 session.

At its June 1999 session, the Committee had before it the quadrennial report for 1994-1997 of the Pan African Islamic Society as well as a letter responding to the allegations of the Permanent Mission of the United States regarding the solicitation of business ventures. Information on the matter was circulated among the Committee members by the delegation of the United States, which requested the Committee to request comments from the organization as the United States delegation believed that the organization was unaware of the solicitation of funds being carried out by persons representing themselves as members of the organization. The Committee agreed to this request and requested PAIS to submit a report on the matter to its resumed 1999 session.

The response to the request by the Committee dated 23 September was received by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section from the Secretary-General of PAIS. The secretariat of the Committee replied to the Secretary-General of PAIS in a letter dated 26 November 1999, acknowledging receipt of the report and requesting confirmation of their representatives in the United States. In a letter dated 30 November, the Secretary-General of PAIS responded by suspending all accreditations for the Society for the coming year and the Non-Governmental Organizations Section informed the representative accordingly. These documents are all set out below.

B. Letter dated 23 September 1999 from the Secretary-General of the Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 2 August 1999 and the 50-page document attached. I am glad that you did receive the quadrennial report for 1994-1997 of the Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development. I have read through the documents purportedly written by our main representative, Mrs. Sharrye Moore, and Mr. Louie Moore. First and foremost, we want to make it categorically clear that we have never received a single copy of the letters written by our main representative accrediting additional representatives for our Society. We have given our main representative authority to accredit additional representatives when the need arose, and we warned her not to accredit unscrupulous people whose activities would tarnish the image of the Society.

The role of the main and alternate representatives should be to foster a good working relationship between our society and the Economic and Social Council and the Department of Public Information; to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between our organization and the United Nations and the Department of Public Information; to disseminate information about NGO activities within the United Nations system; to disseminate information about NGO participation in national development in countries

where they operate humanitarian programmes; to disseminate information about how United Nations agencies work in collaboration with NGOs in consultative status with the Council and the Department of Public Information; to attend NGO conferences and meetings organized by the United Nations and the Department of Public Information; and to report on all the NGO conferences and meetings he or she attends to the head office of the organization he or she represents.

Both the main and alternate representatives are expected to organize fund-raising activities which could be used to finance the Society's development projects, and to report on all fund-raising activities to the Society's head office, indicating how much money was raised (this is a sensitive area, therefore the money should not be acquired by false pretences). Records of all activities should be filed for future reference and representatives should desist from obtaining money with a hidden agenda. We are a local (national) NGO and our aims and objectives are to assist the indigent farming communities in the rural areas, especially those whose standard of living is below the threshold of poverty. All non-governmental organizations have the same aims and objectives, hence we are all working to improve the lives of mankind.

I met the following people on the precincts of United Nations Headquarters in New York: Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr. Liu, Mr. Kuan and Mr. Patrick Bonner. We were later joined by Mr. Tony Vixum Lu, Mr. J. C. Iversen and my Canadian friend, Mr. Peter Markus, who is a lawyer by profession. This was on 1 October 1993. We had a meeting at the Ambassador Grill in New York. It was at that meeting that my friend Mr. Peter Markus formally introduced the aforementioned lady and gentleman to me. During our conversations, Mr. and Mrs. Moore registered their interest to work for our Society as main and alternate representatives. Mr. Markus recommended them to me and I promised them that on my return home in the Gambia I would discuss the matter with the Executive Committee of our Society. The Committee accepted my recommendations because we were looking for someone based in New York to be our representative.

I found Mr. and Mrs. Moore to be a very nice couple. I was dismayed to read the documents detailing the activities of Mr. and Mrs. Moore and the amount of money they were receiving on behalf of the United Nations and the Pan African Islamic Society. In 1990-1991, we received a similar report from Mrs. Farida Ayoub, former Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section. Our main representative was Mr. Jain C. Faye, who was also involved in a similar activity. After receiving Mrs. Ayoub's report, we immediately discontinued Mr. Faye's accreditation to the United Nation. I am really disappointed by the activities of Mr. and Mrs. Moore because I was never sent a copy of the people they accredited as representatives of our society.

Bank accounts

1. Bank Accounts for United Nations

   Account No.: 292-500-048-565

   Pam wired $100,000 2 February 1998 for special United Nations functions to take place in September 1998

2. Pan African Islamic Society

   Citibank

   Account No.: 95-134-668

   Account name: Pan African Islamic Society

   Pam wired $20,000 February 1998

Both Mr. and Mrs. Moore were signatories to the above accounts.

We were never informed that an account was opened for the Pan African Islamic Society. The mere fact that we are not signatories to the above accounts is a clear indication that we are unaware of what is happening in the United States of America as regards the information in the 50-page documents. Anybody in the United States of America representing an organization and not under strict surveillance could do anything, and his or her head office would not be aware of it because we are so many miles apart. How can we overlook such irregularities, when we are quite aware what the implications would be in the future? Such hidden activities are common in the day-to-day administration of organizations worldwide, but as the days go by hidden events unfold. We are a non-profit society and we will never encourage or authorize our representatives to engage in any profit-making venture let alone invest in company construction undertakings.

Almost all our communications with our representatives is by telephone, that is, when they are urgently in need of information from headquarters here at Banjul. If we were aware of the activities of our representatives, the United Nations would have laid hands on copies of our correspondence from the head office either rejecting or endorsing whatever plans they have. We are an Islamic Society and we will **never** condone or conceal any activities that are against the Economic and Social Council's principles; because if we did, it could jeopardize our relationship with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

We do hope that the above elucidations are a sufficient proof that we are unaware of the activities of our representatives in New York.

(*Signed*) A. K. **Sain**
Secretary-General

C. Letter dated 26 November 1999 from the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to the Secretary-General of the Pan African Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development

Thank you for your letter of 23 September 1999, which was received on 24 November 1999.

We have noted from your letter that you were unaware of the activities being carried out in the name of PAIS in New York by your main and alternate representatives, Ms. S. Moore and her husband, Mr. Louie Moore. Shall we conclude from this letter that Ms. Moore and Mr. Moore are no longer representing PAIS in the United States? Kindly respond by facsimile.

Please also indicate whether your letter of 23 September represents the report on this matter requested by the Committee on NGOs as indicated in our letter of 2 August. Your statement will be presented to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its resumed session in January 2000 for its review.

(*Signed*) Michelle **Fedoroff**
Office-in-Charge
Non-Governmental Organizations Section

D. Letter dated 30 November 1999 from the Secretary-General of PAIS to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section

Your letter of 26 November 1999 was received in my absence. If we knew the activities our main and alternate representatives Mr. and Mrs. Moore, we would have frankly let you know and also sent you copies of letters they have been writing to accredit representatives.

We are suspending all United Nations accreditations for our Society for the coming year.

Yes, my letter of 23 September 1999 represents the report on this matter as requested by the Committee and indicated in your letter of 2 August 1999.

(*Signed*) A. K. **Sain**
Secretary-General